

CLAIMS

1. A chunk suitable for admixing to, or as the sole constituent of, animal food compositions containing proteins, one or more water-binding components, water and salt comprising at least one phase, in which the proteins are formed of a high strength matrix as a result of a denaturing stage, said matrix being able to withstand processes such as sterilization and storage for several years without any significant strength losses and wherein said proteins are selected from the group consisting of concentrated blood plasma, blood plasma powder, egg albumin powder or either selected from the group consisting of wheat gluten, soybean proteins, and wherein said water-binding components are either selected from the group consisting of flour, starch, waxy maize starch or the group consisting of silica, physiologically unobjectionable metal oxides, other atoxic inerts, water-absorbing substances, cellulose powder, plant fibers, a combination of substances from the different groups and that define the texture of the chunk solely through the choice of the nature and quantity of the proteins and water-binding components.
5. A chunk according to claim 1, wherein the solid phase has a fat/oil proportion below 5%.
10. A chunk according to claim 2, wherein the solid phase has a fat/oil proportion below 2%.
15. A chunk according to claim 1 wherein the weight ratio of the protein-containing ingredients to the water-binding components is in the range 2.5:1 to 0.3:1.
20. A chunk according to claim 1 wherein following the production thereof, the content of proteins is 10 to 35 wt.%, of flour, starch, waxy maize starch, 15 to 40 wt.% of silicas, physiologically unobjectionable metal oxides, other atoxic

inerts, water-absorbing substances and 5 to 25 wt.% of cellulose
5 powder/vegetable fibers.

6. A chunk according to claim 5 wherein following its production, the ratio of proteins to flour is between 0.6 and 1.4.
7. A chunk according to claim 5 wherein following the production thereof, the moisture content is between 35 and 65%, the carbohydrate content between 10
5 and 30% and the fat proportion below 5%.
8. A chunk according to claim 5 wherein following its production, the fat proportion is below 2%.
9. A chunk according to claims 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8 wherein said chunk comprises an inner and an outer phase said outer phase being at least 10 and preferably 18 times more deformation-resistant than the inner phase.
10. A chunk according to claims 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, or 8 wherein said chunk comprises an inner and an outer phase and wherein said inner phase is a phase comprising cooked or uncooked meat pieces.
11. A chunk according to one of the claims 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, or 8, characterized in
that it comprises an inner and an outer phase, the inner phase having a
composition according to one of the claims 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, or 8 and is at
least 10 and preferably 18 times more deformation-resistant than the outer
5 phase.
12. A chunk according to claim 1 wherein said chunk comprises an inner and an outer phase and wherein said outer phase is an emulsion or a gel or has a soft, easily deformed consistency.
13. A process for the production of a chunk containing proteins wherein the proteins are dissolved in water, water-binding substances are then dispersed in the protein solution, the viscosity of the resulting suspension is adjusted by an

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appropriate addition of swellable or water-absorbing substances, the resulting phase is shaped to strands having a clearly defined size, the resulting strands are denatured and are then cut to a suitable size and are packed and sterilized alone or optionally with other components and wherein the texture of the chunk is determined solely by the choice of the nature and quantity of the proteins and the water-binding component.

14. A process according to claim 13 wherein the proteins are dissolved in water, accompanied by the addition of salt.
15. A process according to claim 13 wherein the water-binding substances dispersed in the protein/salt solution are selected from the group consisting of flour, starch, or waxy maize starch group.
- 5 16. A process according to claim 12 wherein the viscosity of the suspension is adjusted by the addition of one or more substances selected from the group consisting of flour, silica, physiologically unobjectionable metal oxides, other atoxic inert, water-absorbing substances, cellulose powder, or vegetable fibers.
17. A process according to claim 12 wherein the shaped strands have an average diameter of 10 to 35 mm.
18. A process according to claim 12 wherein the denaturing stage involves a temperature change or a pH-value change.
19. A process according to claim 7 wherein the temperature is raised to at least 85°C for performing the denaturing state.
20. A process according to claim 12 wherein the pieces obtained following the cutting stage have a size appropriate for consumption.